

Claims

- [c1] 1. A rotary light switch for vehicles configured to be oriented between a plurality of fixed rotational positions for operating a plurality of different lighting groups and a plurality of spring-loaded axial positions also for operating a plurality of different lighting groups, and wherein a first axial position is activated by a pushing movement and a second axial position is activated by a pulling movement.
- [c2] 2. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the fixed rotational positions correspond to lighting functions of switched off, parking lights, headlamps, and headlamps with auxiliary light.
- [c3] 3. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein an activated axial position is indicated by an illuminated symbol.
- [c4] 4. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein an activated axial position is indicated by a symbol in a character window.
- [c5] 5. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotary light switch is a low-level switch.

- [c6] 6. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotary light switch comprises a control unit that codes the output signals from the rotary light switch.
- [c7] 7. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotary light switch comprises a memory unit that codes the output signals from the rotary light switch.
- [c8] 8. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotary light switch has a serial electronic interface.
- [c9] 9. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the axial positions correspond to two different fog lamp functions.
- [c10] 10. The rotary light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein the axial positions correspond to the functions headlamp interrupt and marker interrupt.
- [c11] 11. A method for controlling a plurality of electronic functions by means of a rotary switch with several spring-loaded axial positions, said method comprising the steps:
 - activating a first function by a first pushing movement;
 - deactivating the first function by a second pushing movement;
 - activating a second function by a first pulling movement;

and

deactivating the second function by a second pulling movement.

- [c12] 12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein at least one of the first and second functions is only activated when the rotary switch is in a predetermined position.
- [c13] 13. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein at least one of the first and second functions is deactivated when the rotary switch is operated.
- [c14] 14. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the first function is front fog lamps and the second function is rear fog lamps.
- [c15] 15. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the first function is headlamp interrupt and the second function is marker interrupt.
- [c16] 16. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:
activating a third function when the rotary switch is pushed in a predetermined number of times during a predetermined interval of time.
- [c17] 17. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

activating a fourth function when the rotary switch is pulled out a predetermined number of times during a predetermined interval of time.

[c18] 18. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

activating a fifth function when the rotary switch has been pushed in for a predetermined period of time by the first pushing movement.

[c19] 19. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

activating a sixth function when the rotary switch has been pulled out for a predetermined period of time by the first pulling movement.

[c20] 20. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

activating a seventh function by a turning movement when the rotary switch is pushed in.

[c21] 21. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising:

activating an eighth function by a turning movement when the rotary switch is pulled out.